

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method for operating a dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a washing fluid filter system having a filter surface, a re-circulation pump for conveying the washing fluid in a first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, a lye pump for pumping away the washing liquid from the dishwasher in a second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system, wherein the second flow direction through the filter surface is opposite to the first flow direction through the filter surface, the method comprising:

executing a wash program at least including ~~composed of the~~ partial program steps pre-wash (V_1 , V_2), clean (R_1 , R_2), intermediate rinse, clear rinse (K_1 , K_2) and dry, and cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system by operating ~~wherein~~ the re-circulation pump and the lye pump ~~are operated~~ at least temporarily in an alternating manner during at least one of the partial ~~part~~ program steps ~~step~~ (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) such that the washing fluid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, and the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away washing residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the washing residue out of the dishwasher.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
operating wherein the re-circulation pump and the lye pump ~~are operated~~ simultaneously
at least temporarily during the at least one partial a-part program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁,
K₂).

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
supplying wherein fresh water to the washing container ~~is supplied~~ at least temporarily
during the at least one partial a-part program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂).

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
~~wherein~~ during operation of the re-circulation pump, simultaneously opening a ~~the~~ feed
valve ~~is simultaneously opened~~ at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the
dishwasher.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
operating wherein the re-circulation pump ~~is operated~~ at least temporarily during
admission of the washing liquid used for the at least one partial a-part program step (V₁,
V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂) into the dishwasher.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
~~wherein~~ during operation of the lye pump, simultaneously opening a feed valve ~~the feed~~
valve ~~is opened simultaneously~~ at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the
dishwasher.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
~~wherein~~ during the at least one partial a-part program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂),
removing washing liquid ~~is removed~~ at least temporarily from the dishwasher ~~preferably~~
via the lye pump.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: successively reducing a ~~wherein the~~ quantity of washing liquid used for one of the partial program steps ~~part program step~~ (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂) ~~is successively reduced~~ during the relevant partial ~~part~~ program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂).

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: in a ~~wherein in the~~ course of the at least one partial ~~a part~~ program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂), substantially completely removing the washing liquid ~~is substantially completely removed~~ from the dishwasher using ~~preferably by means of the lye pump~~.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: wherein after each of the partial program steps ~~part program step~~ (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂) using washing liquid, [[a]] substantially completely changing the ~~complete change of~~ washing liquid ~~is undertaken~~.

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising: varying one of a ~~wherein the~~ speed and a ~~or the~~ capacity of the re-circulation pump for conveying washing liquid ~~can be varied~~.

26. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a washing fluid filter system having a filter surface, a re-circulation pump for conveying the washing fluid in a first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, a lye pump for pumping away the washing liquid from the dishwasher in a second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system, wherein the second flow direction through the filter surface is opposite to the first flow direction through the filter surface, the dishwasher being operable to execute a wash program at least including ~~composed of the~~ partial program steps pre-wash (V₁, V₂), clean (R₁, R₂), intermediate rinse, clear rinse (K₁, K₂) and dry, and to clean the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system by operating

~~wherein~~ the re-circulation pump and the lye pump ~~are operated~~ at least temporarily in an alternating manner during at least one ~~of the partial part~~ program ~~steps~~ step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂) such that the washing fluid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, and the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away washing residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the washing residue out of the dishwasher.

27. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The dishwasher according to claim 26, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ at least two spray devices that are one of ~~are provided which can be~~ supplied simultaneously and [[or]] alternately with washing liquid by the re-circulation pump.

28. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The dishwasher according to claim 27, wherein the washing liquid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump to the individual spray devices at different conveying capacity.

29. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
prior to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during the at least one partial program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by opening a feed valve.

30. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
subsequent to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during the at least one partial program step (V₁, V₂, R₁, R₂, K₁, K₂), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by opening a feed valve.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
subsequent to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during the at least one partial program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by re-opening the feed valve.
32. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system by operating the re-circulation pump and the lye pump a plurality of times in an alternating manner during the at least one of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) such that the washing fluid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away a first portion of the washing residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the first portion of the washing residue out of the dishwasher, the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed again by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, and the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed again by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away a second portion of the washing residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the second portion of the washing residue out of the dishwasher.
33. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system is performed during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2).

34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
prior to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by opening a feed valve.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump and the lye pump simultaneously.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
subsequent to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by opening a feed valve.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
subsequent to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), temporarily operating the re-circulation pump while simultaneously admitting fresh water into the dishwasher by re-opening the feed valve.

38. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system by operating the re-circulation pump and the lye pump a plurality of times in an alternating manner during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) such that the washing fluid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away a first portion of the washing

residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the first portion of the washing residue out of the dishwasher, the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed again by the re-circulation pump in the first flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to the at least one spray device, and the washing fluid subsequently is conveyed again by the lye pump in the second flow direction through the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system to wash away a second portion of the washing residue from the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system and carry the second portion of the washing residue out of the dishwasher.

39. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
successively increasing a quantity of washing liquid used for partial program step (R_1 , R_2) compared to partial program step (V_1 , V_2), wherein the partial program step (R_1 , R_2) is subsequent to the partial program step (V_1 , V_2).

40. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
successively decreasing a quantity of washing liquid used for partial program step (K_1 , K_2) compared to partial program step (R_1 , R_2), wherein the partial program step (K_1 , K_2) is subsequent to the partial program step (R_1 , R_2).

41. (New) The method of claim 33, prior to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during each of the partial program steps (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), filling the washing container to a maximum filling level.

42. (New) The method of claim 15, subsequent to the cleaning the filter surface of the washing fluid filter system during the at least one partial program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2), filling the washing container to a maximum filling level.